

02-01-01

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Docket Number 98P-0151/CP1

Dear U.S. Food and Drug Administration,

I am writing to let you know of my concern for downed animals, animals that are too sick or injured even to stand. Downed animals are frequently dragged to slaughter, or abandoned to die slowly from neglect at stockyards across the country.

These animals should not be allowed to enter the human food chain, as they pose an increased risk for bacterial contamination, and there is evidence that some of these animals may be afflicted with a form of BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy – Mad Cow Disease).

Equally important is the fact that because it is impossible to move downed animals humanely, they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains. Please try to picture this scene – with a LIVE animal, of course, in your head for just an instant. It is easy to see how these inhumane processes cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions, to broken bones and torn ligaments - not to mention the mental anguish they must endure.

Finally, downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship. Obviously, a large percentage of downed animals can be prevented simply with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to the industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

I beg you to do everything possible to grant the petition to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals - docket number 98P-0151/CP1.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

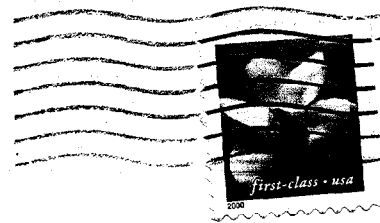
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